

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 19406 231204Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 /066 W
-----091259 231500Z /43

R 231126Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1946
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 19406

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG
SUBJECT: AFFECT OF FAHMY RESIGNATION ON MFA FUNCTIONING

1. FAHMY RESIGNATION, FOLLOWED BY THAT OF MOHAMED RIAD, LEAVES EGYPTIAN MFA IN SOMETHING OF A QUANDARY. ITS FIRST EFFECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WAS DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND EXERCISED IT, IS GONE. THE SO-CALLED FAHMY "MAFIA" IN MFA, I.E., THOSE FEW SENIOR OFFICIALS CLOSE TO HIM WHO KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON (AMRE MOUSSA, SAID HAMZA, OSAMA AL BAZ, MOHAMMED EL BARADEI, AHMED OSMAN, NABIL AL ARABY) ARE DISHEARTENED AT HIS DEPARTURE AND SOME--THOUGH NOT ALL--PRIVATELY SHARE THE VIEW THAT SADAT'S TRIP TO ISRAEL HURT THE OVER-ALL ARAB CAUSE. FOR MOST OTHER MFA UNDERSECS AND MIDDLE GRADE OFFICIALS, FAHMY'S DEPARTURE HAS RAISED HOPES THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN ADVISING NEW FONMIN, WHOEVER HE MAY BE. FAHMY WAS DISTINCTLY UNPOPULAR WITH ALL BUT HIS PROTEGES.

2. ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI HAS ASKED ALL SENIOR MFA PERSONNEL TO STAY ON. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE DOING SO, ALTHOUGH AL BAZ HAS TEMPORARILY BEEN SECONDED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 19406 231204Z

TO THE PRESIDENCY. GHALI COULD DO NOTHING LESS AND IT WILL BE UP TO THE NEW FONMIN, ONCE NAMED AND ON BOARD, TO DECIDE IF HE WISHES TO RESTRUCTURE HIS MINISTRY.

3. A GENERAL IMPRESSION EXISTS THAT IN WAKE OF FAHMY-RIAD RESIGNATIONS, THE PRESIDENT NO LONGER TRUSTS MFA PERSONNEL AND THAT NEW MINISTER WILL BE FROM OUTSIDE ITS RANKS.

ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN NO DIRECT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS IMPRESSION, IT IS PROBABLY TRUE. SOME OF SADAT'S BITTERNESS ABOUT FAHMY MUST INEVITABLE SPILL OVER ON MFA.

4. THIS SITUATION HAS OPERATING IMPLICATIONS FOR US. WE MUST NOW RECKON WITH THE LIKELIHOOD THAT IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO GET DECISIONS ON SUCH MATTERS AS AID AND NAMRU AGREEMENTS, SOF FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY, OFFICIAL CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS, ILO, ETC. GHALI IS STILL LEARNING THE ROPES AND WILL IN ANY CASE BE RELUCTANT MAKE DECISIONS WHICH A NEW SUPERIOR MIGHT DISAPPROVE. THE NEW FONMIN, WHENEVER HE APPEARS, WILL ALSO HAVE TO BRIEF HIMSELF. MOREOVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH AUTHORITY SADAT IS PREPARED TO VEST IN A NEW FONMIN AND/OR GHALI. FOR A TIME AT LEAST, THEY MAY BE EXPECTED TO WANT TO SEEK HIGHER LEVEL APPROVAL FOR WHATEVER ACTIONS THEY MIGHT LIKE TO TAKE.

5. MFA BUREAUCRACY, WITH A FEW NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS,, HAS ALWAYS BEEN SLUGGISH IN PROVIDING RESPONSES. TIGHT CENTRALIZATION OF AUTHORITY, WHICH FAHMY MAINTAINED, ADDED TO THIS SLUGGISHNESS. NOW, UNLESS WE MISS OUR GUESS, THE SITUATION IS LIKELY TO BE EVEN WORSE. WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS PRESS MFA FOR RESPONSES, BUT FOR A TIME AT LEAST THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE DELAYS IN GETTING THEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 19406 231204Z

6. AMBASSADOR HOPES TO MEET WITH ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 24, IN ORDER BRIEF HIM ON VARIOUS OUTSTANDING MATTERS AFFECTING US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO19406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770434-1155
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771127/aaaaawuz.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8130a413-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 480536
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFFECT OF FAHMY RESIGNATION ON MFA FUNCTIONING
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EG, (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8130a413-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009